

**THE CRAZY DESERT CRITTERS**  
**NORTH AMERICA/RT/Teacher/Intermediate/I-73**

2

**NARRATOR:** Late last Monday  
It happened, you see,  
A funny old man  
Shuffled up to me.

(READER 1 PUTS ON HAT AND GLASSES,  
TAKES CANE. THE FOLLOWING READERS  
STAND AS THEY READ THEIR INDIVIDUAL  
LINES:

**READER 2:** He pointed his finger

**READER 3:** And scratched his head.

(READER 1 STANDS AND BEGINS TO SHUFFLE  
DOWNSTAGE CENTER, PRETENDING TO BE  
THE OLD MAN).

**READER 4:** Then this is what the old man said,

(THE FOLLOWING WORD MUST BE SAID JUST  
AS IT IS WRITTEN: " EX-CUE-OOOOZ" IS  
PRONOUNCED AS THREE SYLLABLES.  
"OOOOZ" AND "ME" ARE EMPHASIZED.  
REHEARSE THIS BY ESTABLISHING A BEAT OR  
RHYTHM TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE  
STORY WHEN THESE WORDS APPEAR).

**ALL:** **EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!**

(READER 1 POINTS CANE OR WAGS FINGER  
AT AUDIENCE DURING READING OF  
FOLLOWING POEM):

**READER 1:**

Is that your mama  
With blotches on her side,  
About 5 inches long  
And not very wide?

She moves pretty fast  
And I'll tell you too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN  
UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!").

**ALL:**

**LIKE YOU!**

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN  
UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!" READER 1 RETURNS  
TO CHAIR AND PASSES PROPS TO READER 2).

**NARRATOR:**

As you can well imagine,  
I was

(READER 5 PICKS UP SIGN SAYING  
"SURPRISED." READER 5 STANDS, HOLDS  
SIGN ABOVE HEAD, AND SAYS):